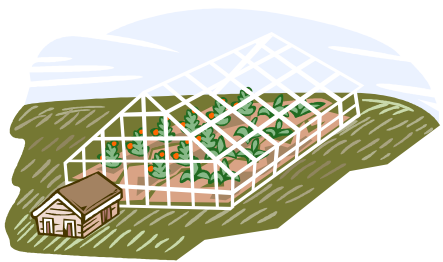




# Stormwater Best Management Practices Fact Sheet Series

## Plant and Tree Nurseries

Sprinkler runoff from greenhouses, garden centers, and nurseries can carry pesticides and fertilizers into the storm drain system. Grass clippings, leaves, and plant waste can be swept or blown into the street, clogging catch basins and polluting waterways. Common pollutants found in nurseries, greenhouses, and garden centers include: soil, fertilizers, pesticides, plant waste, compost and mulch, and other trash.



### What can you do to prevent pollution?

- **Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers**
  - Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers if rain or wind is predicted
  - Use pesticides and fertilizers only as directed
- **Store pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals in a covered area and in sealed, waterproof containers**
- **Cover stockpiles of potting mixes, soils, or mulch with roof or tarp**
- **Avoid overwatering to prevent runoff**
  - Use berms to divert runoff away from storm drains or waterways
  - Collect and reuse runoff from watering activities
- **Compost plant waste instead of disposing of it in streets, waterways, or the storm drain system**
  - **Properly dispose of chemicals; do not pour into sink, floor drain, storm drain, street, or wash**
  - **Keep spill containment kits handy**
    - Use dry clean-up methods; do not hose spills into storm drains
  - **Train employees to practice pollution prevention; post best management practice guidelines**
- **Check with state and local jurisdictions for any permitting requirements**



For additional information or questions, please contact:

Maricopa County Environmental Services Department  
Stormwater Quality Program  
1001 N Central Ave., Ste 300  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
602-372-1569  
[www.maricopa.gov/stormwater](http://www.maricopa.gov/stormwater)